



~~UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE~~

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to the initial review of the above-identified application on the merits, please enter the following Preliminary Amendment.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.